APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 11 asked by Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 6th August 1929, page 20 supra.]

1869 *Q.*—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the ryots of Palur, Rasapoliyam, Pudur, Rangapuram and other villages in Vellore taluk, North Arcot district, petitioned on 7th August 1928, the authorities for permission to graze their cattle in the Senenkuppam Settikinar reserved forest and also to erect a 'patti' to pen their cattle during nights;

(*b*) whether permission was accorded by the Forest Ranger, Odugathur, on 11th February 1929;

(*c*) whether the above ranger on 12th February 1929 asked the village munsif to have it tom-tomed in the village that the ryots should not take their cattle to the reserve in mamul way, crossing Pallor, Ammata Kuttai Sarhath;

(*d*) whether on one occasion the forest guard beat the ryots and closed the path to the reserved forest; and

(*e*) whether the Government are aware that the ryots suffer much for want of grazing facilities for their cattle in this hot weather?

A.—(*a*) Yes, the ryots applied for permission to pen their cattle near Chettikinar and the petition was received in the Range office, Odugathur, on 7th September 1928. The range officer submitted the petition to the District Forest Officer, Vellore, with his remarks on 10th September 1928 and orders for the issue of licences were issued to the range officer on 30th November 1928.

(*b*) Yes, the range officer issued the licences on 11th February 1929. The ryots did not come for them till then though they knew that licences were obtainable.

(*c*) Yes, when the licences were granted, certain conditions were required of the ryots and one of these conditions was that they should not take their cattle along the footpath under reference which traverses worked coupe V of Agaram fuel felling series and which is neither a customary path nor a right of way. The conditions were all reduced to writing and the signatures of the permit-holders were obtained on them and for greater publicity they were proclaimed by beat of tom-tom.

(*d*) The hon. Member is requested to give information as to the name of the forest guard and a fuller description of the path.

(*e*) The Government understand that in the hot weather the cattle do not as a rule go to the hills on account of water scarcity but graze in harvested fields.